

Remarks:

Responsive to the Action of April 7, 2004, which was made final, and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.116(b), Applicants seek to amend this application to place it in allowable form by complying with requirements set forth in the previous Actions. Specifically, Applicants seek to amend claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 4. Applicants also seek to amend and cancel certain claims that depend from claim 1. In particular, Applicants seek to cancel claim 2; to amend claim 3 so that it recites a step instead of a structure; to cancel claim 4; to amend claim 5 so that it depends from claim 1 instead of claim 2 and to clarify that the limitation recited further defines the determining step; to amend claim 7 so that it recites a step instead of a structure; and to amend claim 8 to depend from claim 6 instead of claim 1. Claim 6 is not amended in this paper, but instead remains as it was amended in the response to the October 8, 2003 Action.

Both of the Office Actions for this application indicated that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of its base claim (claim 1) and any intervening claims (there are none). As seen above, Applicants have complied with this request by incorporating the limitations of claim 4 into claim 1. Please note that the limitations of claim 1 are incorporated as they were originally presented and, therefore, the currently amended claim 1 does not include the language rejected in the April 7, 2004 Action pursuant to § 112. Thus, consistent with the statements in the Office Actions, claim 1 as currently amended should be in allowable form.

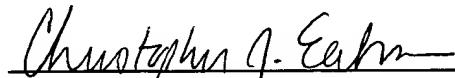
Claims 3 and 5-8 depend either directly or secondarily from claim 1. Thus, if claim 1 is in allowable form then claims 3 and 5-8 are in allowable form for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is in allowable form.

Applicants believe that this amendment places the application in form for allowance. Thus, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.116(b), Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment be considered and entered and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued.

Applicants do not believe that this Amendment requires the payment of any additional fee. If, however, a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Account No. 50034.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below:

Respectfully submitted,



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